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543CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALSCOUNTRY Soviet Zone of GermanyREPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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TOPIC Military Information from Stendal

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]25X1A  
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REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 7 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)       REMARKS       

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1. All Stendal (M 53/Y 85) barracks were occupied to capacity by Soviet troops on 5 March 1950. There were many columns of soldiers marching to and from the barracks. All troops observed were young, had closely-cropped hair and new equipment.
2. A contractor stated that the quarters and utilities buildings at the Letzing Heath troop training grounds would soon be considerably improved at a cost of allegedly 3 to 4 million east marks.
3. Heavy motor vehicle traffic, primarily of trucks carrying troops and equipment and coming from the direction of Magdeburg (M 53/Y 60), was observed in Stendal on 8 February 1950.
4. [REDACTED] each carrying about 20 soldiers and signal equipment, were seen in the Stendal streets. [REDACTED] was observed with the troops who recently arrived in the Tauentzien Kaserne. A 120-mm mortar was coupled to the towed truck. The new unit at once took over the strict guard duty in the barracks area.
5. The following observations were made between 21 February and 11 March 1950:
  - a. Hindenburg Kaserne on Buergerpark: occupied by infantry and artillery units. Troops held

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night marching exercises after the beginning of March 1950. On 2 March 1950, for example, about 300 troops were seen returning from a training march.

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b. **Tauentzien Kaserne on Osterburgerstrasse:**

Occupied to capacity by infantry units primarily consisting of 18 to 20-year-old recruits. About 250 recruits marched out of the barracks in the evening of 2 March 1950. Motor vehicles seen there

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c. **Albrecht der Baer Kaserne:**

occupied by tank units with numerous recruits. Trucks carrying about 12 troops and towing a 76.2-mm AT gun each, were observed on 7 March 1950. carrying 10 soldiers and towing a 76.2-mm AT gun, moved into the barracks area on 10 March 1950.

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d. **Headquarters in Hardenbergstrasse:**

occupied by 20 to 30 officers, towed by , arrived there from the direction of Magdeburg late on 22 February 1950.

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6. The following shipments were observed between 21 February 1950 and 3 March 1950:

a. 21 February 1950: Three officers and 36 unarmed infantrymen with baggage departed toward Magdeburg at 1 p.m.

b. one officer and 22 unarmed infantrymen with baggage left in the same direction at 6:20 p.m.

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c. 24 February 1950: Thirty to forty new ZIS trucks were detained between 10 and 11:30 a.m.

d. 3 March 1950: Two officers and 78 unarmed RM with baggage departed toward Magdeburg at 4:50 p.m.

7. Three hundred to four hundred troops in groups of 10 to 20 left Stendal between 20 and 26 February. They left in a southerly direction at irregular intervals aboard scheduled trains. Two groups of soldiers had come from the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne. It was not observed that any shipments of weapons, vehicles, or equipment left Stendal.

8. A combat practice involving about 500 troops from the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne and the Tauentzin Kaserne, was held in the area west of the Stendal-Wittenberge railroad line on 14 February 1950. Most of the troops were 19 to 20-year-old recruits. The exercise was directed by a lieutenant colonel. The troops practiced the attack by squads advancing under mutual fire protection and the digging of foxholes.

9. Tauentzien Kaserne:

occupied by about 1,200 troops, primarily recruits, of units of various branches of service. No heavy weapons were observed. Motor vehicles in the bar-

diers, totaling 300 to 400 men, practiced entrenching work, close-combat drill and the terrain description in the area north of the barracks, in the afternoon of 7 March 1950. Three platoons of about 40 men each marched from the Tauentzien Kaserne to the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne in the afternoon of 9 March 1950. The troops did not carry arms.

10. Hindenburg Kaserne:


Occupied by about 1,500 troops, including recruits of units of various branches of service. Motor vehicles left the barracks toward Salzwedel (M 53/Y 27). The following observations were made:

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a. 3 March 1950: About 200 recruits were observed at combat practice near the road to Unglingen.

25X1C b. 7 March 1950: About 150 troops held training at squad level under the supervision of a major in the area between the barracks and the railroad embankment.  each carrying about 20 men and towing a 76.2-mm AT gun, arrived from the direction of Magdeburg in the afternoon of the same day.

c. 10 March 1950: About 40 troops held <sup>close</sup> order drill under the command of a lieutenant in the barracks yard. Three soldiers did maintenance work on a tank farther to the rear.

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11. Albrecht der Baer Kaserne and restricted area on Hardenbergstrasse:

occupied by tank and artillery units, with a high unit headquarters on Hardenbergstrasse. The following observations were made:

a. 6 February 1950: About 100 Soviet civilians, including some women, arrived aboard the regular express train from Zwickau (N 51/K 34) and took up quarters in the Soviet residential area.

b. 15 February 1950: Fifteen tanks were parked in the barracks yard.

c. 24 February 1950: Nineteen newly spray-painted trucks arrived by rail from the direction of Berlin.

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d. 4 March 1950: Three T34 tanks arrived from the direction of Gardelegen.

e. 7 March 1950: Five trucks towing as many guns of about 100 mm caliber arrived.

f. 9 March 1950: Three platoons, each of about 40 unarmed men wearing red-bordered black epaulets moved into the Tauntzien Kaserne. The troops were not observed to leave the barracks again.

12. No Soviet troops were seen in the training area south of Staats (M 53/Y 64) on 17 March 1950. An envelope bearing APN 62 000 A was found in one of the vacant twig huts.

13. About 50 troops were observed to be stationed in the former German Armed Forces settlement about 1 1/2 km south of Boergitz (M 53/Y 64) on 17 March 1950. The quarters were being reconditioned. A signal section constructed a telephone line between the settlement and the trunk line along the Gardelegen-Stendal road.

14. The following observations were made in Stendal on 5 April 1950

a. Tauntzien Kaserne:

Five groups of about 12 soldiers held terrain training in the area of the former parachutists' camp.

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About 400 troops on 15 trucks left the barracks for the training area on the road to Arnim at about 7 a.m., according to nearby residents.

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b. Ration supply depot on Arneburgerstrasse:

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loaded with pontoons, left toward the city. Six more trucks

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carrying pontoons were parked in the yard of the supply depot. [REDACTED]

15. The following observations were made in Stendal on 6 April 1950:

a. Albrecht der Baer Kaserne:

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[REDACTED]

b. Hindenburg Kaserne:

Six platoons of about 35 men each and led by two officers each, left the barracks at about 10 a.m., marching toward the target ranges. There was intensive training activity at the drill area behind the barracks. About 25 twelve-man groups were

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